

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of September 24, 2008 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 20 and 28, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if redrafted into independent form. Accordingly, claims 19 and 27 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 20 and 28, thus placing claims 19 and 27 into condition for allowance. Claims 40 and 42, depending therefrom, should thus also be in condition for allowance for the same reason.

As such, all of the claims in the present application should now be in condition for allowance. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshihiko YOKOYAMA et al.

/Nils E. Pedersen/

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